

## **Specification Amendments**

Please amend the Specification, without prejudice, as follows:

At page 14, please amend the second paragraph (lines 11-19) of the specification as follows:

-- Also, FIG. 5 shows a schematic sectional view of a relevant part of the fuel cell of the present invention shown in FIG. 4. More specifically, FIG. 5 shows a polymer electrolyte membrane 51, a catalytic reaction layer 52, a diffusion layer 53, an electrode 54, an MEA 55, a gas flow channel 56, a conductive separation plate 57, a cooling water flow channel 58 and a gasket 59. In a retaining plate 60 composed of two plates each having an undulate cross section, only several aligned hollow sections at the center, where the manifold 42 for a cooling water was in contact with the cross section of the retaining plate 60, were used as the cooling water flow channel 58, among a plurality of aligned hollow sections which were separated from one another. --

Please delete the Abstract and insert the following new Abstract as follows:

### **-- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A polymer electrolyte fuel cell has a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via a retaining plate, the unit cells having a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching the electrodes. The retaining plate, composed of two plates having an undulate cross section and hollow sections which are separated from one another, forms a gap between the unit cells, such that it is possible to readily

remove a defective unit cell from the stack and replace it. A method of using a polymer electrolyte fuel cell is also provided. - -